

Standard 8-2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the American Revolution—the beginnings of the new American nation and South Carolina’s part in the development of that nation.

8-2.3 Summarize the course and key conflicts of the American Revolution in South Carolina and its effects on the state, including the attacks on Charleston; the Battle of Camden; the partisan warfare of Thomas Sumter, Andrew Pickens, and Francis Marion; the Battle of Cowpens; and the Battle of Kings Mountain. (H, G)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand / Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

In 3rd grade, students summarized the key conflicts and key leaders of the American Revolution in South Carolina and their effects on the state, including the occupation of Charleston by the British; the partisan warfare of Thomas Sumter, Andrew Pickens, and Francis Marion; and the battles of Cowpens and Kings Mountain (3-3.2).

In 4th grade, students summarized the events and key battles of the Revolutionary War, including Lexington and Concord, Bunker (Breed’s) Hill, Charleston, Saratoga, Cowpens, and Yorktown (4-3.4).

In United States History, students will learn the impact of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution on the American colonies and on the world at large (USHC 2-2.).

It is essential for students to know:

Key conflicts of the American Revolution took place in South Carolina and affected the state and the outcome of the Revolutionary War.

Although the first attempt by the British to capture **Charleston** was thwarted by the tides and the resilience of the palmetto log fort that became known as Fort Moultrie, the British were successful the second time around. Soon after their defeat in New York, the British turned their attention to South Carolina, where they hoped to find a large number of Loyalists. Charleston was under siege by the British land forces for many days. Charleston harbor was blockaded and supply lines were cut off. Patriot troops, trapped on the peninsula, were forced to surrender to the British. Other Patriot forces in South Carolina also surrendered. The British hoped that South Carolina Loyalists and the large numbers of South Carolinians who remained neutral would help them to control the state and contribute to their winning of the war. However, the British forces treated the colonists harshly, burning churches, looting or confiscating homes and harassing and mistreating citizens. This harsh treatment turned many South Carolinians against the British and they formed partisan bands. Soon Patriot partisans were fighting both the British regular troops and Loyalist forces using hit and run tactics.

The British burned **Thomas Sumter**’s home and he responded by rallying backcountry men into a partisan fighting force. Sumter’s hit and run guerrilla tactics and his tenacity earned him the appellation the “Gamecock.” Sumter’s forces attacked British supply lines and loyalist forces in the Upcountry, giving hope to the Patriot cause. Other bands of partisans began to organize under the leadership of **Francis Marion** on the northeast coast and **Andrew Pickens** in the Upcountry. Marion and his forces launched surprise attacks on the British and then disappeared into the lowcountry swamps earning him the nickname “Swamp Fox.” Pickens was named the “Wizard Owl” by Upcountry Native Americans.

The **Battle of Camden** was a major defeat for the regular Continental Army and meant almost all of South Carolina was controlled by the British. The South Carolina militia was not prepared and turned and fled in the face of the regular British forces.

Loyalist forces and British regulars that had been rampaging through the backcountry were stopped at the **Battle of King's Mountain**. Mountainmen from both North and South Carolina attacked the Tory forces from behind rocks and trees, inflicting heavy casualties. Although the British tried to surrender, they were offered no quarter by the Patriots in retaliation for harsh treatment of Patriots by the British. King's Mountain is considered a turning point because the British began to retreat from the Upcountry.

The Battle of Cowpens showed the cooperation of the regular Continental Army and the irregular partisan forces. Partisans had a reputation among the British regular forces of turning tail and running. The American commander counted on this reputation for his battle plan. The partisans, under the leadership of Andrew Pickens, led the attack and then fled the field, tricking the British regulars into thinking that the Americans were retreating. Instead, the partisans lured the British forces into the guns of the regular American army. The British were soundly defeated and retreated northward toward Virginia.

It is not essential for students to know:

Students do not need to know specific locations and dates of the battles, however, the course or order of these encounters is important. Although students should know the names of Marion, Pickens and Sumter, they do not need to know the names of other American commanders such as Horatio Gates, Nathaniel Green, or Daniel Morgan. They do not need to know the names of the British commanders such as Cornwallis or Patrick Ferguson or the atrocities associated with Banastre Tarleton.

Assessment guidelines:

Appropriate assessments would require students to **summarize** the course and key conflicts of the American Revolution in South Carolina. Students should be able to **explain** how the fall of Charles Town and the subsequent actions of the British forces led to the development of partisan militias under the leadership of Thomas Sumter, Andrew Pickens, and Francis Marion. Students should be able to **summarize** the effectiveness of these partisan forces at King's Mountain and Cowpens and **compare** them to the effectiveness of the regular Continental Army at the Battle of Camden